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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY D/ PW: FASIEVERTS: GM

5/25/73 EXT. 29454

APPROVED BY S/ S: TLELIOT

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TOSEC 342

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SGEN, US

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM FRANK SIEVERTS

1. TED ELIOT SUGGESTED I GIVE YOU A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YESTERDAY'S FESTIVITIES FOR OUR POW'S. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF A MEMORABLE DAY.

2. WEDNESDAY EVENING (MAY 23) THE SIX HUNDRED RETURNEES AND THEIR WIVES (OR OTHER GUESTS) FILLED THE WASHINGTON HILTON TO BURSTING. DOZENS OF REUNIONS TOOK PLACE, IN SOME CASES OF MEN WHO KNEW OF EACH OTHER FOR YEARS BUT HAD NEVER BEFORE MET. THE HAPPY SCENES CONTINUED AT THURSDAY'S BREAKFAST, COURTESY OF THE HOTEL, AND CONTRASTED FAVORABLY BY THE RETURNEES WITH THEIR FARE AT THE HANOI BRANCH OF THE HILTON CHAIN.

3. AT NOON THURSDAY KEN RUSH CONFERRED THE DEPARTMENT'S AWARD FOR VALOR ON THE SIX STATE- AID- USIA RETURNEES IN A SMALL CEREMONY ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR. SECRETARY RUSH THEN

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HOSTED LUNCH ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR FOR THE RETURNEES AND THEIR GUESTS, DR. HANNAH, JIM KEOGH AND A FEW OTHERS.

4. SHORTLY AFTER TWO THE POW' S ARRIVED AT THE WEST AUDITORIUM FOR THEIR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHILE THEIR LADIES TOOK TEA WITH MRS. NIXON ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR. THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED REPEATED STANDING OVATIONS FOR HIS HOUR- LONG EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS (TEXTUSIS). THE MOST FERVENT APPLAUSE GREETED HIS STATEMENT THAT " I THINK IT IS TIME TO QUIT MAKING NATIONAL HEROES OUT OF THOSE WHO STEAL SECRETS AND PUBLISH THEM IN THE NEWSPAPERS." AFTERWARDS THE PRESIDENT STAYED FOR PERSONAL HANDSHAKES WITH ALL THE MEN, WHO FILED ACROSS THE WEST AUDITORIUM STAGE. THERE WAS FULL PRESS AND MEDIA COVERAGE.

5. STEADY RAIN FAILED TO DAMPEN THE EVENING' S FESTIVITIES-- A SIT- DOWN DINNER FOR 1200 ON THE WHITE HOUSE SOUTH LAWN IN THE LARGEST TENT ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THE GUESTS HAD THE RUN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, INCLUDING THE FAMILY QUARTERS, WHERE PRES. AND MRS. NIXON PUT IN A SURPRISE APPEARANCE EARLY IN THE EVENING TO GREET SOME OF THE MEN.

6. BOB HOPE WAS MASTER OF CEREMONIES FOR ENTERTAINMENT THAT RANGED FROM THE NEW CHRISTY MINSTRELS, JOEY HEATHERTON, AND SAMMY DAVIS, JR., THROUGH JOHN WAYNE, PHILLIS DILLER, JAMES STEWART, AND ROY ACUFF AND THE SMOKEY MOUNTAIN BOYS, TO A MOVING FINALE OF IRVING BERLIN LEADING THE ENTIRE GROUP IN " GOD BLESS AMERICA." LATER THERE WAS DANCING IN THE WHITE HOUSE, I' M TOLD UNTIL 4 A. M. ALL IN ALL, IT WAS A MOVING AND MEMORABLE DAY. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE101511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FASIEVERTS: GM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730555/aaaajvzw.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN DP
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980306
Subject: N/A
TAGS: SGEN, US
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005